

Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

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R 110517Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4330
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2622

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA
SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN

REF: (A) STATE 84296; (B) JIDDA 2520

1. WHILE SAG INTERPRETATION OF HUSSEIN'S REMARKS DURING "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" PROGRAM (AS WELL AS DURING APRIL 6 PRESS CONFERENCE) IS PROBABLY SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THAT CONTAINED IN PARA 2 REFTTEL A, I AM NOT PERMITTING HIS INDISCRETIONS TO HINDER OUR EFFORTS WITH SAUDIS ON SUBJECT OF JORDAN HAWKS. PRINCE SAUD IS CURRENTLY EVADING ME ON THIS AND ANOTHER SUBJECT, BUT I WAS GIVEN SOME INSIGHT INTO SAG REACTION TO OUR PROPOSALS BY UNDER SEC FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MANSOURI TWO DAYS AGO. I SAID I WAS STILL WAITING FOR PRINCE SAUD TO DISCUSS JORDANIAN SYSTEM PROPOSALS WITH ME AND WE BELIEVE IT OF PRIME IMPORTANCE FOR OUR SAUDI FRIENDS TO SELECT SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE FROM AMONG THOSE WE PRESENTED TO THEM ON MARCH 30.

2. MANSOURI INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PROPOSAL. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT SAUDI REACTION TO THE ENTIRE SUBJECT IS NOT TO BECOME FURTHER INVOLVED. THEY WOULD RATHER TURN OVER SUM OF MONEY, HE SAID, AND HAVE NO MORE TO DO
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WITH MATTER. I SAID GOOD PART OF OUR EFFORT IS DESIGNED

TO EASE THEIR PROBLEM, AND THAT IF THEY WILL COOPERATE
ALONG LINES WE SUGGESTED WE WOULD ACHIEVE THAT TOGETHER.
I WAS NOT REASSURED AT ALL BY HIS ATTITUDE AS IT PROBABLY
REFLECTED THAT OF PRINCE SAUD.

3. YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF SAUDI TENDENCY TO PROCRASTINATE.
SAUD KNOWS I WOULD COME TO RIYADH OR ANY OTHER PLACE TO
TALK TO HIM AND THAT WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT THIS MATTER
SHOULD BE DEALT WITH. BUT HE IS OFF TO YEMEN TOMORROW
FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS. I EXPECT TO SEE KAMAL ADHAM
TOMORROW AND PERHAPS GET HIS ADVICE AS TO HOW TO MOVE
MATTER FORWARD. FAHD, AS YOU KNOW, DID NOT MENTION IT IN
HIS LONG DISSERTATION ON POLICY MATTERS PERTAINING TO
NEARBY COUNTRIES, AND FACT HE MADE SAUD HIS CHANNEL TO US
PROBABLY REFLECTS HIS DISTASTE FOR SUBJECT.

4. IF I CAN'T GET SOME MOTION FROM THEM, I WILL TRY
PROVIDE YOU WITH ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION. IN
MEANTIME, SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER WITHIN CONTEXT OF OUR
OVERALL INTERESTS HOW MUCH YOU MAY WISH TO LEAN ON SAUDIS
IF THEY REMAIN UNCOOPERATIVE.
PORTER

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NNN

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